



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR**

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET  
462 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012



**MARK J. SALADINO**  
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

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September 1, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**TRANSFER OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS  
AND UNCLAIMED FUNDS TO THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND**

**ALL DISTRICTS  
(3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

- 1) Authorize the Treasurer and Tax Collector to transfer a total of \$5.962 million to the County's general fund for Fiscal Year 1999-2000 unclaimed secured and unsecured property tax over payments, to be recognized as revenue in Fiscal Year 2004-2005.
- 2) Authorize the Treasurer and Tax Collector to transfer \$893,480 to the County's general fund from various unclaimed funds, which have been on deposit for more than one year, to be recognized as revenue in the current fiscal year.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This letter requests Board approval to transfer unclaimed property tax payments and various miscellaneous unclaimed funds to the County's general fund.

**Unclaimed Property Tax Payments**

Revenue and Taxation Code Section 5102 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to transfer to the County's general fund any property tax payments for which refunds are permissible and for which a claim for refund has not been filed within four years of payment.

When overpayments or double payments occur, the Treasurer and Tax Collector attempts to identify the person making the payment and refund them accordingly. If the Treasurer and Tax Collector is unable to identify the person making the payment, a notification is sent to the assessee of record indicating that a claim for refund can be filed with the Treasurer and Tax Collector. For Fiscal Year 1999-2000, through these efforts, the Treasurer and Tax Collector was able to successfully refund approximately seventy-two percent (72%) of all the over payments or double payments received.

All unclaimed funds are maintained for a minimum of four years during which time claims for refunds are received, validated, and processed. These unclaimed funds totaling \$5.962 million represent less than one-tenth of one percent of all tax payments received in Fiscal Year 1999-2000.

#### Other Unidentified Payments

The Treasurer and Tax Collector receives and processes nearly eight million payments each year. The Treasurer and Tax Collector is unable to properly apply payments, which are received with insufficient or erroneous information. Considerable efforts to locate and notify owners of unclaimed funds are made by Treasurer and Tax Collector staff. If addresses of apparent owners are known, numerous attempts to appropriately apply or refund a payment are made including notification in writing and publication.

Under California Government Code Sections 50050-50057, the Treasurer and Tax Collector is responsible for transferring to the County's general fund unclaimed funds of individual items that are less than fifteen dollars (\$15), or any amount in which the depositor's name is unknown, which remain unclaimed in the treasury for more than one year.

#### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

This request provides for the transfer of \$5.962 million to the County's general fund, for which an accrual has been established in order to recognize this revenue in Fiscal Year 2004-2005, and for the transfer of \$893,480 to be recognized as revenue in the current fiscal year.

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
September 1, 2005  
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**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Not applicable.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Saladino", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

Mark J. Saladino  
Treasurer and Tax Collector

MJS:JK:eb

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors